

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Chippenham Area Board</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Area Board Funding</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

To ask Councillors to consider 2 applications seeking 2011/12 Community Area Grant Funding. Officer recommendations:

1. Award Littleton Drew Parochial Church Council £5,000 to “Bringing All Saints back to the heart of the Community”, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.
2. Award Wiltshire Music Centre £2,196 for “Anthem for a Child” project, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Community Services 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance for funding.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement. With this in mind Community Area Grants should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups.
- 1.4. Area boards will not consider applications from Town and Parish Councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local Town/Parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from Town/Parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the Town/Parish council.
- 1.5. In addition to Community Area Grants, Councillors can submit an Area Board Project which differs from Community Area Grants in that they do not require match funding. Area Board Projects should not be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria.
- 1.6. Area Board Projects are designed to enable the Area Board to address community issues or projects identified in the Community Plan. An application form is used and quotes for project work have to be provided in a similar manner to the Community Area Grant Scheme.
- 1.7. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their report, although the decision to support applications and to what level is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.8. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.9. All applicants are encouraged to contact Charities Information Bureau which is working on behalf of Wiltshire Council to support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.10. 3 applications to this funding round were withdrawn. Two applicants have withdrawn due to a change in circumstances with their projects. One applicant intends to reapply to the next funding round in March.

- 1.11. Paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.12. The 2011/2012 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)) or paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.

**Background documents used in the preparation of this Report**

- Area Board Grant Guidance 2011/12 ACCL-001-11
- Community Area Grant Application Pack 2011/12
- Chippenham Community Area Plan
- Local Agreement for Wiltshire

**2. Main Considerations**

- 2.1. Chippenham Area Board has been allocated a 2011/2012 budget of **£68,917** for Community Area Grants, Community Partnership Core Funding and Area Board Projects.
- 2.2. The carry forward from the 2010/2011 budget is **£1,814**. This gives a **total budget of £70,731** for the 2011/2012 budget.
- 2.3. There will be 6 rounds of funding during 2011/12. The first was on 9<sup>th</sup> May, the second on 4<sup>th</sup> July, the third on 12<sup>th</sup> September; the fourth was on 14<sup>th</sup> November and the fifth is contained in this report. The remaining deadline for receipt of applications and date they will be considered is as follows:
- 20<sup>th</sup> January for consideration on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012
- 2.4. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2011/12 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.5. At the Area Board meetings up to and including 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Councillors approved the award of £20,472 to Community Area Grants, £9,772 to Community Partnership Core Funding, £105 Area Board expenditure on trophies, frames and certificates for the Chippenham Area Board Community Awards and £1,390 for Area Board projects leaving a balance of £38,992.
- 2.6. In September 2011 a previous applicant rescinded £1,081, part of an award that they were not able to spend due to unforeseen circumstances. In November 2011 a previous applicant returned £253, part of an award that was unspent. This gives a balance of £40,326.

### 3. Environmental & Community Implications

Community Area Grants will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the budget allocated to the Chippenham Area Board.
- 4.2. If Councillors make awards to Community Area Grants in line with officer recommendations, Chippenham Area Board will have a **balance of £33,130**.

### 5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

### 6. HR Implications

- 6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

### 7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

- 7.1. Community Area Grants give all local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils an equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes.
- 7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – “Officer Recommendations”.

### 8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1.	Littleton Drew Parochial Church Council	Bringing All Saints back to the heart of the Community	£5,000

- 8.1.1. Littleton Drew Parochial Church Council – Award £5,000 to “Bringing All Saints back to the heart of the Community”, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place. *See Appendix 1*

- 8.1.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2011/12.

- 8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Chippenham & Villages Community Plan “Insufficient community halls”.
- 8.1.4. This project demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council’s priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire to create stronger and more inclusive communities “We want to create local communities where people can easily meet and share a wide range of activities”.
- 8.1.5. “Bringing All Saints back to the heart of the Community” is a project to convert space in All Saints Church to enable the local community to use it for a variety of events and activities throughout the year. This will be achieved by removing some of the pews and replacing them with seating which can be moved around as required. Appropriate heating will also be installed.
- 8.1.6. The applicant has confirmed that Listing Building consent is not required for this project.
- 8.1.7. The applicant is working with Wiltshire Wood Recycling regarding the removal and disposal of the wooden pews.
- 8.1.8. The village pub closed some years ago, and the recent sale of the old schoolroom means that the church is now the only remaining community building in the village.
- 8.1.9. Officers understand that local residents have expressed a desire to have more village events which make use of the church. Several groups have indicated that they would like to use the converted space including a toddler group, youth group and book club.
- 8.1.10. Officers are of the opinion that the planned conversion of part of the church will provide a flexible space and valuable facility for use by the whole community.

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.2.	Wiltshire Music Centre	“Anthem for a Child”	£2,196

- 8.2.1. Wiltshire Music Centre – Award £2,196 for the “Anthem for a Child” project, conditional upon the balance of funding being in place. *See Appendix 2*
- 8.2.2. This application meets the Community Area Grant Criteria for 2011/12.
- 8.2.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Chippenham & Villages Community Plan “Aims to increase support for community facilities and events and to encourage a range of cultural opportunities for both residents and visitors”.

- 8.2.4. This application demonstrates a link to Wiltshire Council’s priorities in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire to create stronger and more inclusive communities “Encourage communities to take part in sporting and cultural activities and events that bring different ages together”.
- 8.2.5. “Anthem for a Child” is a project which will give an opportunity for 150 primary school children in the Chippenham area to participate in a choir with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) as part of a nationwide celebration on the theme of the Olympics.
- 8.2.6. Officers understand that the OAE is a world class orchestra that is very successful at addressing social issues through music and also has a high success rate for poor academic achievers through their projects.
- 8.2.7. Officers are of the opinion that this project will provide an opportunity for children to experience and participate in a music activity which they may not otherwise have.

<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 grant application – Littleton Drew Parochial Church Council Appendix 2 grant application – Wiltshire Music Centre
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

<b>Report Author</b>	Victoria Welsh, Community Area Manager Tel: 01249 706 446 E-mail: <a href="mailto:victoria.welsh@wiltshire.gov.uk">victoria.welsh@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
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